

[Date]

[CEO]
[Railroad address block]

Re: Railroad Service Demands

Dear Mr. [CEO]:

There is heightened focus this year on the ability of the railroads to meet demands for rail service. At least four major factors have converged to cause this heightened focus: the healthy domestic economy; growth in import/export traffic; the agriculture sector's forecast of record harvests; and the fact that rail infrastructure has begun to show capacity constraints.

Consequently, I believe it is essential that the Surface Transportation Board continue its close monitoring of the railroads' service plans. This will contribute to the Board's confidence level that appropriate planning is being done to ensure that spikes in rail traffic demand that are expected for the remainder of the year can be handled as efficiently as possible. As in past years, this will also provide an important tool for rail customers to keep them better informed and enable them to plan efficiently for the needs of their rail-served businesses.

Therefore, please provide, by July 17, 2006, your service plans for the remainder of the year, including:

- The steps your railroad is taking to ascertain demand for and prepare for this year's peak shipping season;
- Your railroad's performance goals for the remainder of this year;
- Your railroad's plans for achieving those goals; and
- Your railroad's plans to communicate these steps, goals and plans to customers.

Thank you for your cooperation. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

W. Douglas Buttrey
Chairman

cc: Vice Chairman Francis P. Mulvey
Mr. Edward R. Hamberger, Association of American Railroads